Wolfe asks lawmakers to back 5 percent funding hike for higher education

By Rudi Keller Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 10:54 am

JEFFERSON CITY — The state must use money to fulfill political promises that higher education is a priority, University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday as he asked for a 5 percent increase in funding for colleges and universities.

Backed by a letter signed by 13 community college presidents and 14 leaders of state four-year institutions, Wolfe said the state spends less on higher education per student than 10 states with lower taxes and 10 states rated as more conservative than Missouri.

Higher education funding has declined nationally but in Missouri, it has fallen faster, Wolfe said. And tuition, used to replace diminishing state dollars, has risen slower in Missouri than in other states, Wolfe said.

“What do we want Missouri to be known for, and what are our priorities?” Wolfe asked lawmakers.

Wolfe’s complaints should be directed at Gov. Jay Nixon, not the General Assembly, Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said. Nixon has withheld money appropriated for higher education in each of the past four years, he said.

“We are working in a headwind here against the governor on education issues over and over again,” Schaefer said.

In addition, Schaefer said, the state must decide if it can support 13 four-year campuses. “We have to define what we are going to fund because it is successful and define what we are not going to fund because it is not successful,” Schaefer said. “Somebody is going to have to drop a hammer in the bigger picture here.”

Sen. Mike Kehoe, R-Jefferson City, agreed that there are too many institutions, but if anyone “tried to reduce that pie we would all fall on our sword trying to protect that facility.”

In his budget plan for the coming year, Nixon has proposed a 1.3 percent increase in funding for the UM System, adding about $5.7 million to the base appropriation of $428.5 million. If
lawmakers meet Wolfe’s request, the UM System increase would be $21.4 million and the increase for higher education overall would be $45.5 million.

Wolfe also asked for $10 million to sustain an MU School of Medicine program to train doctors in Springfield. Lawmakers appropriated $10 million for the program this year, but Nixon is withholding more than half the money.

Wolfe has been feeling heat for describing Missouri’s direction as a “race to the bottom.” He faced criticism in the Senate from members who complained the UM System was not being frugal after Wolfe’s comments appeared in an editorial printed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

“I am not spending any time on it, I’m moving on,” Wolfe said after testifying to the committee. “The comments I made today is we’re looking for a partnership with our political leadership in prioritizing higher education and focusing on the positives.”

The letter from college and university presidents was addressed to the full General Assembly and delivered under a joint letterhead of the Missouri Community College Association and the Council on Public Higher Education.

“If it is not tax policy and it is not politics, perhaps the explanation is a matter of priorities,” according to the letter. The constitution makes education the state’s top priority after debt, the letter notes.

University of Missouri police investigate reported sexual assault

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 5:17 pm

University of Missouri police are investigating after a female student reported a sexual assault that occurred Sunday morning.

Capt. Brian Weimer said officers contacted the victim, 18, at 8:39 p.m. Tuesday at her residence on campus. She told them a male student raped her at College Avenue Hall at 2:30 a.m. Sunday, Weimer said. Weimer said the woman does not live in the building. Weimer did not know the age of her alleged assailant, whom MU police haven't arrested, but have identified the man.
“We know the other party involved,” Weimer said of the suspect, who also is a student. “We’re doing an investigation to gather the facts and we will work with the prosecutor’s office to see if charges” are warranted.

Police are still working to determine what happened. Weimer said a Clery release was not issued because “there is no indication of an immediate threat or ongoing threat to the campus community.” Named for a woman who was raped and murdered in the 1980s at a university campus in Pennsylvania, the Clery Act mandated that all higher education institutions that receive federal financial aid money maintain records of crimes on and near campus. The law also requires institutions to issue an immediate notice to the community about “a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring on the campus,” according to the establishing statute.

University of Missouri police investigating reported sexual assault


COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri police are investigating after a woman reported being raped on campus.

The 18-year-old student told police it happened around 2:30 a.m. Sunday in College Avenue Hall.

The woman does not live there, and it's not clear if her alleged attacker does.

"We do know who the other party involved is and we're working on talking to them to find out what happened," Captain Brian Weimer said.

Right now, no charges have been filed and the man has not been arrested.

"We're still talking to both parties as well as working with the prosecutor's office to determine if charges will be filed," Weimer said.
A Clery release was not issued because "there was no indication of an immediate threat to the campus community," according to Weimer.

Six Clery releases reported rapes last year on campus, although MUPD said sexual assaults are often unreported.

Weimer said the woman is now receiving assistance.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

MU group raises funds for deceased visiting scholar

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 | 5:42 p.m. CST; updated 10:54 p.m. CST, Wednesday, February 11, 2015
BY KATIE AKIN

COLUMBIA — The MU Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars is conducting a fundraising campaign for the family of Kui Zou, an MU visiting scholar from China who was struck by a car and killed on Providence Road on Jan. 22.

The group is asking for donations to help Zou’s family pay for funeral services, the repatriation fee and travel to the United States. As of Feb. 2, the association had raised $1,500 and 1100 yuan, equivalent to about $176, for the Zou family.

"Our goal is to help Chinese scholars and students in the United States," Xiao Fan, vice president and treasurer of the association, said.

Zou, 24, was struck by a vehicle while crossing north on Providence Road, near Carter Lane. She was pronounced dead on the scene, according to previous Missourian reporting.

"It is tragedy," Fan said. "Her family is very sad, and we wanted to fundraise to support them."

Fan said the organization will be setting up times to collect cash donations around campus.

A memorial service for Zou will be held in the Reynolds Alumni Center at 3 p.m. on Friday.
The fundraising campaign will continue through March 31. Information about where to send donations can be found on MU's International Center's website.

Babies know a bully when they see one

Babies as young as 13 months know how people should treat each other—and recognize when nasty replaces nice.

In the social world, we are constantly gathering information through visual cues that we use to evaluate others’ behavior. Babies do the same thing.

For a new study, researchers created social situations using puppets and then studied the reactions of 13-month-old infants.

Infant gazes

Scenarios included puppets being friendly or hitting each other with and without witnesses. In each situation, the infants’ gazes were timed, which is an indication of infant knowledge and understanding. The findings show that the babies understood what was happening.

“Our findings show that 13-month-olds can make sense of social situations using their understanding about others’ perspectives and by using social evaluation skills,” says You-jung Choi, a doctoral candidate at University of Missouri.

“Infants can’t tell us what they expect to happen, so we observe their looking time as a way of determining infant expectations. Things that are normal or expected are relatively boring and infants quickly look away; things that are unusual or unexpected, however, are interesting and cause infants to spend more time looking at them.”

Mean puppets

In the study, published in the journal Psychological Science, researchers first manipulated two puppet characters so they interacted in a positive manner—by clapping their hands, hopping together, and turning to look at each other.
A third puppet was then introduced and was hit by one of the first two. The babies also witnessed different scenarios that showed intentional hitting or accidental hitting.

Researchers then examined how these scenarios would change how the babies reacted.

“These scenarios are a bit like adults witnessing their friends behaving badly,” says Yuyan Luo, associate professor of psychological sciences. “If you were to witness your friend hitting another person, you’d tend to avoid him or her.

“If you had not witnessed the hit, you still would hang out with the friend. If the hit were an accident, then you may or may not spend time with them. Our results showed that babies reacted to these scenarios in similar ways.”

The results suggest that young children are developing skills that enable them to assess social situations.

“For adults, the answers to these questions are probably complicated, depending on various factors such as the nature of the friendship and both parties’ personalities,” Choi says.

“However, we feel that what we’re witnessing is the beginning of how we assign meaning to social situations later in life.”

The researchers will next study social interactions how babies react after watching prosocial acts such as helping or assisting the puppet who was hit.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Anniversary Committee displays 175th anniversary flag one last time

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 | 10:15 p.m. CST
COLUMBIA — Members of the MU Anniversary Committee gathered Wednesday on Francis Quadrangle to display the 175th anniversary flag. The flag was covered with signatures of current students.

The anniversary flag will be put into storage until MU’s 200th anniversary.

COLUMBIA — Entrepreneur Diana Kander left legal profession to mentor students, others

"Today, we're going to talk about your ask, your valuation and your exit," the 33-year-old says, turning to face the class of 19 MBA students in the MU College of Business.

The ask is the question students will ask investors at the end of their pitches. An exit is the return they expect from investors.

Finally, Kander compares the idea of valuation to both dating and nailing a job after graduation: "He who cares less, wins."

The students chuckle, but they understand her point. It's about getting investors interested in a company without seeming desperate.
For the next hour, Kander poses "what-if" situations to make her students think and prepare them for team presentations about the Missouri startups they are studying as class assignments.

Kander teaches entrepreneurship to college students. She was a lawyer before she left to become an entrepreneur and own equity in nine companies — mostly ventures in hotels, dining, construction and real estate.

Along the way, she has altered her approach. She tells her students not to start with a great business idea. Look for a "migraine" problem among consumers, and solve it. That notion led to the book "All In Startup" that Kander wrote over two years. It was released in June and is now used in more than 40 universities and community colleges across the country, including Georgetown, Wake Forest and MU.

These days, the author, entrepreneur, teacher, wife and mother of a 1½-year-old boy wants to spread her message beyond the business community.

**Soviet refugees**

Less than 24 hours after her class ends, Kander has signed onto a Google Hangout with five fellow entrepreneurs who share their challenges and successes through weekly online meet-ups.

Within minutes, she is asked a common question by one of the entrepreneurs: "How did you become so respected in the startup community?"

The answer lies in her family history. In 1989, she and her parents came to the U.S. as refugees from the Soviet Union. They came with less than $290, and each had one suitcase full of belongings. She was only 8.

Within weeks, the family had moved to Kansas City to be closer to a relative. As a young girl, Kander watched her parents, Marina and Leon Kagan, struggle to assimilate.

Neither spoke English, and they took jobs at Pizza Hut and TJ Maxx to make ends meet.

Determined to make a better life for their family, her parents decided to start a company. They assembled a laboratory in their basement and began to make dental products, including crowns for teeth.
Ultimately, the Kagans showed their products to the family dentist, who referred them to other dentists in the area. Over the years, her parents moved the company, Dental Harmony Lab, out of the basement and into an office with a staff of 15.

**Starting early**
Even as a young child, Kander had a knack for business. In middle school, her father would drive her to a giant flea market in the parking lot of an outdoor movie theater in Kansas City.

She would hunt for bargains on small trinkets, such as sunglasses and electronics, then sell them to her classmates at a markup.

In high school, she met her future husband, Jason Kander, now Missouri’s secretary of state. The two went to different schools, but they were "debate rivals."

Diana decided to study at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Jason went off to American University in Washington, D.C. The couple reunited at Georgetown Law School in 2002 and married in 2003.

The day after law school graduation in 2005, Diana and Jason packed their belongings into an army-green Jeep and drove back to Kansas City. She took a job at a law firm, and he joined the military and served as an intelligence officer.

Back home, Diana realized that she wasn't happy with her job as an attorney. The entrepreneur inside her kept pulling her toward the world of startups.

**Business sense**
As a lawyer, she became friends with a client named Doug Gamble, who flipped poorly performing hotels for a profit. The pair shared a love for innovative business projects.

One day in 2006, Gamble shared his idea for an online pay-per-click advertising company. Eager to do something entrepreneurial, Kander quit her job and became a minority equity owner in SmartLinks Marketing. The company targeted athletic and city visitors' bureau websites with smart, contextual advertising.

Then, quite soon after leaving her job at the law firm, Kander’s excitement turned to apprehension.
"My primary job was to do sales for the new company, and I immediately freaked out because I thought I was terrible at sales," she explained. "I was afraid of calling people on the phone, and that was literally my only job."

Although the marketing company did not take off as planned, Kander eventually overcame her fears and was determined to be a success. Over the next nine years, she became an equity owner in nine businesses — real estate companies, bars and restaurants, a construction management company, consulting firms and a software company.

Several times, she came close to bankruptcy, but a few of her ideas soared, and she found herself in the position of turning a few thousand dollars of capital into millions.

One of the businesses, KR Legal Management, matched midsize companies with law firms. A spinoff, Legal Sonar Inc., which connects attorneys to potential clients, was ultimately assumed by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association.

In 2011, the Kansas City Business Journal named her one of the "Women Who Mean Business".

A year later, Kander was named a senior fellow at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a private organization that fosters self-sufficiency through education and entrepreneurship.

The same year, her husband was elected secretary of state. The couple moved to Columbia in 2013 to be closer to the capital. Late last month, it was widely reported that Jason Kander was seriously thinking about a run for U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt’s seat in 2016.

**Mentoring instincts**

Early in her career, Diana Kander realized she had a natural instinct for helping people, which motivated her to share her tools and information.

"I saw what entrepreneurship did for me and my family," she said. "I've also seen people lose money, marriages and family. I'm passionate about helping people avoid detrimental consequences."

After selling KR Legal Management two years ago, Kander decided to write a fictional account of entrepreneurship to illustrate how it works.
Finding the right approach was challenging. After writing the first half, she asked around 20 entrepreneurs to read it, but their feedback was critical. They told her to work harder to convey her message.

She revised her strategy, going through seven revisions and spending two years on the book. Kander settled on a fiction format instead of an academic textbook to engage the reader more fully in the ideas and narrative. The book is an easy read, and its key passages are highlighted in bold to make her points.

One of the two main characters in the novel is a successful entrepreneur named Samantha, and the other is a struggling business owner named Owen. Both are thrown together at the World Series of Poker, where Samantha steers Owen toward a different business approach.

"If this was a love story, it would be god-awful," wrote one reviewer on Goodreads. "However, the book has very good tips about entrepreneurship."

It was a New York Times best-seller last year in the advice, how-to and miscellaneous section. The Wall Street Journal also listed it as a nonfiction best-seller.

To market the book, Kander turned to crowd-funding site Indiegogo to raise $10,000. She surpassed her goal, raising $31,948, which enabled her to send the book and a companion curriculum to thousands of entrepreneur professors nationwide.

**Spreading the word**

In 2013, Columbia was ranked No. 2 on a list of the top 30 best small cities for young entrepreneurs by the website Under 30 CEO. The reasons included high quality of life, low cost of living, good education and health care.

"The startup scene in Columbia is strong and growing," said Heidi Fuhrman, an organizer of Columbia Startup Weekend, which took place in October at the Museo incubator on Buttonwood Drive.

It was the fourth annual competition, with 40 teams making pitches to web designers, software developers, potential investors and advertising specialists. Kander, one of the judges, said she was impressed by the entrepreneurial spirit in Columbia.
"I'm amazed at all the people that have already done well and are helping the community prosper," she said.

Sitting in the corner of her gray couch one afternoon last fall, Kander pulled her legs to her chest and wrapped her arms around her knees. The house was quiet except for two dogs snoring beneath her feet and the sound of a sleeping baby coming from the monitor on the kitchen counter.

She fielded a call from a student and spoke candidly on the phone: "I want to hear what’s going on and find a solution."

Because her class runs a lot like real life, she urges her students to call if they run into trouble with an assignment.

A self-described private person, Kander has learned that sharing a personal story can often make a crucial connection with people. She sends out a weekly newsletter to subscribers where she offers advice and stories.

"I don’t like sharing at all," she said. "But I’ve forced myself to do it because it helps ideas resonate."

Kander spends most of her workdays teaching, traveling to speaking engagements across the country and developing teaching materials for her book. She also says she loves to spend time with her family. When she and her husband are busy, they work in tandem to care for their son, True.

Yet, she is driven by the goal of getting more and more people to think like entrepreneurs.

"It is so incredibly rewarding and meaningful," she said.

Ice Bucket Challenge money heading to research
COLUMBIA -- MU veterinary researcher Joan Coates has spent years researching degenerative myelopathy. The condition affects dogs the same way ALS affects humans.

Coates' research has found degenerative myelopathy stems from a genetic mutation. She is now investigating different treatment options for dogs who have the condition, treatments she hopes can be used for humans. Rodent studies have yielded no such treatment so far.

Coates relies chiefly on funding from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Missouri.

"We try to seek external funding, too, but that's sometimes more challenging to get," she said.

Coates might be able to find more outside funding soon. In August of 2014, a series of online videos began circulating in which people poured buckets of ice water on their heads and called out their friends and family, challenging them to donate to the ALS Association. The Ice Bucket Challenge eventually raised more than $110 million. Participants included celebrities such as Taylor Swift and Hulk Hogan, politicians like South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, and thousands of everyday people. KRCG 13 meteorologists Zac Evans and Dan Ebner took part in mid-August. Even ALS patients took the challenge, including physicist Stephen Hawking and guitarist Jason Becker.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's Disease, breaks down the connection in motor neurons. This keeps the brain from communicating with muscles, and muscle tissue shrinks as a result. Patients gradually lose the ability to make any voluntary muscle movements and become completely paralyzed, although involuntary functions like digestion are unaffected.

Sherrie Hanneman, director of communications for the ALS Association's Mid-America Chapter, said the association provides funding for patient care and advocacy as well as research. Still, the association has already pledged about $30 million from the Ice Bucket Challenge for research projects. Hanneman said the association has been asked to fund more than 500 projects in recent months.

"In the past, we wouldn't have nearly that many," she said. "People who have these great ideas before just knew that there wasn't the money for it or they didn't put in for money."

Hanneman said future researchers might consider August 2014 a turning point in the fight against ALS. She said the ice bucket challenge's greatest legacy will likely be greater awareness about the disease.

"For those of us who are on the ground, doing this every day, having our families be recognized for what they're battling has been a really big benefit," she said. "Our families now feel like their stories are being told. They don't have to battle this by themselves."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN
MU students celebrate 'puppy love'
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 | 8:09 p.m. CST; updated 8:15 p.m. CST, Wednesday, February 11, 2015
With much love in the air in the week leading up to Valentine's Day on Saturday, MU students had the chance to experience "puppy love" in a literal way Wednesday.

The Missouri Student Union partnered with the Central Missouri Humane Society to put on the event. Students could pay $1 to spend 5 minutes with a puppy, and the money benefited the Central Missouri Humane Society, according to the Missouri Student Union's Facebook page.

The group hosted the event as part of its "We Love Our Students" monthly program.
Performance-based funding in higher education is spreading, with 35 states either developing or using formulas that link support for public colleges to student completion rates, degree production numbers or other metrics.

The resulting debate over whether performance funding works is heating up, too. But a new report from HCM Strategists makes the case that there is great variation among the policies in those 35 states. It seeks to classify four types of formulas to help inform policy makers, researchers and higher education officials.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which supports performance-based funding, paid for the report from HCM, which is a public policy and advocacy firm. Martha Snyder, a senior associate with HCM, wrote the paper. She has worked with policy makers in several states on performance funding.

Snyder said blanket statements about those policies tend to drown out the nuance. The report tries to move past this type of argument by distinguishing between state approaches and by describing which ones work best.

Four broad types of performance-funding models have emerged, according to the report, which uses the term “outcomes-based funding,” the preferred nomenclature among advocates.

The report assigns types to policies based on increasing levels of “sophistication and adherence to promising practices.” Type I, for example, covers some of the earliest approaches, which do not include completion goals and only affect low levels of funding — less than 5 percent of public college budget contributions. But Type IV features at least 25 percent of funding and factors in outcomes for underrepresented students.

“These typology characteristics reflect commonly articulated and research-informed design and implementation principles,” the report said.

A key point in assessing whether performance-based funding works, according to HCM, is to first determine how much money is at stake.
While 26 states have performance policies on the books, only 5 tie more than half of overall state support for public institutions to the formulas. Those states are North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee and Mississippi.

It’s a steep drop-off after that group -- the other 21 link less than 10 percent of state funding to performance.

That money doesn’t go far on a per-student basis. The report said states with some performance-funding average $810 per student in outcomes-tied spending. Tennessee and Ohio both top $4,000 per student, while Washington is $23 and Texas is $377.

The share of performance funding should be large enough to gain attention, shape priorities and influence actions, according to the report. Others, however, would prefer that experiments with funding formulas are limited, and seek to sway colleges' behavior without risking large pots of state money.

**Critics Weigh In**

The Gates Foundation is a prominent supporter of completion-oriented accountability in higher education. Some skeptics likely will be unmoved by a Gates-funded report in its attempt to reframe the debate around performance funding.

However, two academics who have produced studies that cast doubt on the efficacy of performance-based funding said the HCM document will be helpful.

“They’re offering some guidance and some classification themes,” said Nicholas Hillman, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who studies higher-education finance and policy.

David Tandberg agreed. Tandberg, an assistant professor of higher education at Florida State University, said he appreciates that the report is distributing information about the program design of funding models.

He praised its use of portions of studies by Kevin J. Dougherty, an associate professor of higher education at Columbia University’s Teachers College who is a senior research associate with the university’s Community College Research Center. But Tandberg also said
he was disappointed that the study did not draw from the growing body of quantitative research on performance-based funding.

"We cannot expect to improve public policy if we choose to ignore the results of rigorous evaluations," Tandberg said in an e-mail.

In response, Snyder said much of the existing research is about funding models that no longer exist, weren’t focused squarely on completion and were done on the margins. She also said that some of those studies "make broad claims that reach beyond the findings."

The HCM report in part seeks to shape the conversation by pointing to design principles that it said research has shown to work best. Many of those lessons have been learned from the trial and error of early funding formulas. States can use these emerging “best practices” to develop their own models, according to the report, or to update existing policies.

The report’s recommendations include establishing a consensus around goals before developing a policy, making funding meaningful and secure, identifying limited and measurable metrics, including all institutions while allowing for differentiation, rewarding progress, and evaluating and adjusting.

“The analysis of state funding policies must continue in an effort to inform these considerations and understand the most effective way to direct their investment in higher education,” the report concludes. “Moving toward results-based policies may require fundamental shifts in resources and mind-set -- but our students deserve no less.”

For his part, Hillman said deep questions plague performance-based funding. A big one, he said, is that it’s unclear if the use of incentives to move institutional behavior is effective.

“The design oftentimes isn’t the problem,” said Hillman.
Yet both Hillman and Tandberg said further discussion is warranted.

“Hopefully moving forward we can establish a better dialogue between independent researchers and those advocates who are working with the states on such issues,” Tandberg said. “These are very important and high-stakes issues that deserve serious consideration and empirical evaluation.”
* Oklahoma implemented OBS as a bonus in FY14 but did not appropriate bonus funds in FY15.
** Louisiana used a funding formula in part based on outcomes in FY14. The formula was not used in FY15.
*** Oregon is developing and implementing.